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IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) An in-contents advertising method, ~~wherein advertisement information provided beforehand is included in digital contents, the method~~ comprising the steps of:

activating in a user terminal in a game program by a user ~~[[the]]~~ digital contents;
determining that the digital contents have been activated by the user;
transferring an identifier of the digital contents and an identifier of the user to an advertising information server when the digital contents have been activated by the user;
selecting and retrieving advertising information by the advertising information server based on the digital contents identifier and the user identifier;
transferring the retrieved advertising information to the user terminal; and
inserting the retrieved advertising information in the digital contents ~~[[:]]~~ based on information indicating that advertisements may be inserted such that advertising information is automatically selected and retrieved from the advertising server, transferred to the user terminal, and inserted in the digital contents when the digital contents are activated in the game program in the user terminal by the user, so that advertising information included in the digital contents is updated with the retrieved advertising information.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The in-contents advertising method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving advertisement structure information for the digital contents from a contents provider at the advertising server;
receiving advertiser specified information of the advertiser at the advertising server;

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preparing the advertising information based on the advertisement structure information and the advertiser specified information, and receiving the advertising information at the advertising server; and

providing the advertising information by the advertising server to the contents provider for insertion in the digital contents.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The in-contents advertising method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a download request for the digital contents from a user at a contents server of the contents provider;

forwarding an identifier of the digital contents and an identifier of the user from the contents server to the advertising information server; and

receiving the in-contents advertisements from the advertising information server at the contents server for insertion in the digital contents;

wherein the in-contents advertisements are retrieved from the advertising information server based on the digital contents identifier and the user identifier.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A digital contents distribution system for realizing in-contents advertisements, said distribution system comprising:

a digital contents distribution system comprising a first server storing a plurality of digital contents to be provided;

an advertisement information providing system comprising a database storing advertisement information which is to be set in advertisement areas in said digital contents; and

a plurality of user terminal devices;

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wherein, in response to download requests for specific digital contents from said user terminal devices, said digital contents distribution system receives advertisement information corresponding to said specific digital contents and user identification information from said database of said advertisement information providing system, inserts said advertisement information in said specific digital contents based on information in the digital contents indicating that advertisements may be inserted, and subsequently distributes said specific digital contents to a user;

wherein the received advertising information is inserted in said specific digital contents by said digital contents distribution system in response to the user requests for specific digital contents, such that the received advertising information is automatically rendered by the user terminal devices upon activating the digital contents in a game program; and

wherein the digital contents are activated in the game program at the user terminal devices by the user.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A digital contents distribution system for realizing in-contents advertisements, said distribution system comprising:

a digital contents distribution system comprising a first server storing a plurality of digital contents to be provided;

an advertisement information providing system comprising a database storing advertisement information which is to be set in advertisement areas in said digital contents; and
a plurality of user terminal devices;

wherein, in response to a download request for specific digital contents from one of said plurality of user terminal devices, said digital contents distribution system transfers an identifier

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of said specific digital contents and an identifier of said one user terminal device to said advertisement information providing system, and distributes said specific digital contents to said one user terminal device;

wherein said advertisement information providing system retrieves advertisement information from said advertisement information providing system based on said specific digital contents, information in the digital contents indicating that advertisements may be inserted, and said identifier of said one user terminal device and transmits said retrieved advertisement information corresponding to said specific digital contents from said database, to a user, wherein said retrieved advertising information is transmitted in response to the download request for said specific digital contents, such that the retrieved advertising information is automatically rendered by the user terminal device upon activating the digital contents in a game program; and

wherein the digital contents are activated in the game program at the user terminal devices by the user.

Claim 6 (original) A digital contents distribution system according to Claims 4 or 5, wherein said distribution system configures a network of:

said digital contents distribution system comprising said first server;

said advertisement information providing system comprising said database; and

said plurality of user terminal devices;

using one, or two or more, of the following means: cable television, broad-band wireless network, and optical fiber network.

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Claim 7 (original) A digital contents distribution system according to Claims 4 or 5, said advertisement information providing system further comprising means for recording the transmission state of said advertisement information, with advertising fees being calculated based on said recording results.

Claim 8 (original) A digital contents distribution system according to Claims 4 or 5, said distribution system further comprising:

a contents providing system for creating contents and providing said contents to said digital contents providing system; and

an advertisement creating system for creating advertisement information and providing said advertisement information to said advertisement information providing system.

Claim 9 (original) A digital contents distribution system according to Claim 8, said distribution system further comprising a banking system;

wherein said advertisement information providing system comprises means for recording the transmission state of said advertisement information, with advertising fees being calculated based on said recording results, and the advertiser being billed for said advertising fees from said bank.

Claim 10 (original) A digital contents distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said advertisement information providing system provides said advertisement creating system with advertisement structure information containing at least portions and times regarding which advertisement insertion can be made;

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and wherein said advertisement creating system provides said advertisement information providing system with advertisement information created based on said advertisement structure information and specified information from the advertiser.

Claim 11 (original) A digital contents distribution system according to Claims 4 or 5, wherein said digital contents data contains advertisement programs, with said advertisement information being set into said digital contents by said advertisement programs.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A digital contents providing system comprising a plurality of servers storing digital contents,

wherein said digital contents providing system configures an advertisement information providing system having a database storing advertisement information to be set into advertising areas within said digital contents, and a network;

wherein, in response to a download request for specific digital contents transmitted to said digital contents distribution system by a user, said digital contents distribution system receives advertisement information corresponding to said specific digital contents and an identifier of the user from said database of said advertisement information providing system, inserts said advertisement information in said specific digital contents based on information in the digital contents indicating that advertisements may be inserted, and distributes said advertisement information along with said requested digital contents to said user, wherein said advertising information is distributed to said user in response to the download request for specific digital contents, such that the advertising information is automatically rendered for the user terminal devices upon activating said digital contents in a game program; and

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wherein the digital contents are activated in the game program at the user terminal devices by the user.

Claim 13 (currently amended) An in-contents advertising method, wherein advertisement information provided beforehand is included in digital contents activated in a contents provider by a user request to the contents provider, the method comprising the steps of:

activating in a user terminal in a game program by a user the digital contents;

determining by the contents provider whether the digital contents have been activated by the user;

transferring an identifier of the digital contents and an identifier of the user by the contents provider to an advertising information server when the digital contents have been activated;

retrieving advertising information from the advertising information server based on the digital contents identifier and the user identifier; and

providing the retrieved advertising information to the contents provider for insertion in the digital contents;

wherein the retrieved advertising information is inserted in the digital contents based on information in the digital contents indicating that advertisements may be inserted, the advertisement information being inserted by the contents provider in response to the user request for digital contents, such that the advertising information is automatically rendered by the activation of the digital contents in the game program.

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Claim 14 (currently amended) The in-contents advertising method of claim 1, wherein the digital contents comprise:

said information indicating that advertisements may be inserted;

a header including at least a company name and a title;

movie data including graphics data;

the game program;

object data; and

a plurality of sets of texture data.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The digital contents distribution system according to claim 4, wherein the digital contents comprise:

said information indicating that advertisements may be inserted;

a header including at least a company name and a title;

movie data including graphics data;

the game program;

object data; and

a plurality of sets of texture data.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The digital contents distribution system according to claim 5, wherein the digital contents comprise:

said information indicating that advertisements may be inserted;

a header including at least a company name and a title;

movie data including graphics data;

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the game program;
object data; and
a plurality of sets of texture data.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The digital contents providing system according to claim

12, wherein the digital contents comprise:

said information indicating that advertisements may be inserted;

a header including at least a company name and a title;
movie data including graphics data;
the game program;
object data; and
a plurality of sets of texture data.

Claim 18 (currently amended) The in-contents advertising method according to claim

13, wherein the digital contents comprise:

said information indicating that advertisements may be inserted;

a header including at least a company name and a title;
movie data including graphics data;
the game program;
object data; and
a plurality of sets of texture data.